



Highlighted Version

Remote Control Holder

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Background Of Invention

This invention generally relates to holders of electronic equipment control units and more particularly relates to a device for holding a plurality of consumer electronic remote control units such as television, VCR, DVD and stereo equipment and other equipment of this nature.

Manufactures of electronic equipment for home entertainment devices such as televisions, VCRs, etc., provide remote control units for their devices. Typically several pieces of equipment are used in conjunction with one another. Each device having its own remote control unit can present several problems such as misplacement of the control unit. Consumers have used "universal remote controls" to help consolidate remote functions. However, "universal remote controls" usually do not incorporate all of the functionality of the manufacturers original remote control unit. In addition "universal remote controls" can make it more difficult on the user to perform certain functions usually due to one device attempting to control too many devices. Also, some equipment such as satellite systems require a special remote control. What is needed is a way to handle a plurality of the manufacturers original remote controls easily and in a combined controllable manner.

Summary Of Invention

The present invention is directed towards an
5 apparatus that meets the foregoing needs. The apparatus
holds a plurality of remote control units supplied by the
manufacturers of home entertainment or consumer
electronics such as television, VCR, DVD, stereo and the
like in close proximity to one another so the consumer
10 may use them as one unit or one "large remote control".
It is adaptable to multiple remote control styles sizes
and shapes. The apparatus provides a convenience for the
consumer of ease of handling this "large remote control"
via an upswept portion extending from the flat plate
15 structure where the manufacturers remote control units
are attached. This allows the consumer to easily remove
or place the now one-piece device on a flat surface such
as a coffee table, floor, couch etc. or leaned against
the side of couch or coffee table. This shape also allows
20 ease of use during operation of the remotes. The consumer
can hold the apparatus on the lap using the upswept
portion with one hand and actuate the remote controls
with the other hand. In addition this apparatus now keeps
all the devices placed on one large object making it more
25 difficult to misplace.

Various objects and advantages of this invention
will become apparent to those skilled in the art from the
following detailed description of the preferred
embodiment, when read in light of the accompanying
30 drawings.

Brief Description Of Drawings

Fig. 1 is a side perspective view of the invention;

Fig. 2 is a side plan view of the apparatus

5 illustrated in Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a side view of the apparatus illustrated in Figs. 1 and 2 resting on a coffee table or flat surface.

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Detailed Description

Referring now to the drawings there is illustrated in Figs. 1-3 an apparatus 10 according to the invention. The apparatus 10 has a flat mounting surface 8 to which one or more remote control units 3 are placed perpendicular to the long axis of the surface 8. The top surface 8 is defined by generally parallel sides 12 and opposite side 14 and perpendicular side 11 and angled portion 20 forming the boundaries of the generally rectangular surface. An opposite bottom surface 18 is also then defined.

In connection to the angled boundary portion 20 extends a surface 17 some distance into a plane at some angle A1 to form an upswept portion 13. An opening 15 may be created through the surface 17 to allow the fingers of a users hand to pass through the upswept surface 13. This upswept surface 13 in conjunction with the angle A1 can aid the user in the removal or placement of the apparatus to a resting surface 25, as well as ease of control during remote control use.

The remote control units may be attached to the surface 8 by many attachment methods such as two faced adhesive tape, straps or in this preferred embodiment hook and loop adhesive strips 22. In addition the

attachment of more than one remote control unit to the surface 8 in conjunction with the upswept portion 13 act together as one unit to form a multi-remote control apparatus.

5 One skilled in the art may make the apparatus 10 of many materials that may be formed to this shape and strong enough to hold a plurality of remote control units. Some materials include plastics such as Lexan (polycarbonate), Nylon, ABS, aluminum, fiberboard, carbon
10 fiber lamination, wood etc. In this preferred embodiment an injection moldable polycarbonate may be used. If injection molding is used the bottom side 18 may be recessed or cored out as a way of both strengthening while saving material volume and weight.

15 The principle and mode of operation of this invention have been explained and illustrated in its preferred embodiment. However, it must be understood that this invention can be practiced otherwise than as specifically explained and illustrated without departing
20 from its spirit or scope.

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus for holding and handling a
5 plurality of remote control units, comprising:

A generally flat and smooth remote control
attachment surface which is providing a mounting section
along the long axis of said surface without raised
features or indentations that interfere with direct
10 attachment of said remote control units.

Said surface is defined by two generally parallel
sides a perpendicular side and opposite connected
perpendicular surface protruding some distance creating a
new surface. This new surface extends from said long axis
15 boundary at a defined angle into a new plane to form an
upswept portion. Opposite bottom surfaces are also then
defined. In addition said upswept surface may have a slot
or hole through it normal to this new surface. In
addition some form of connected fastener such as two
20 sided adhesive tape or hook and loop strips are used to
attach the remote control units to said generally flat
and smooth surface which is providing a mounting section.

2. A remote control holder according to claim 1,
25 wherein: Injection molding is used wherein the bottom
side 18 may be recessed or cored out as a way of both
strengthening while saving material volume and weight.



Abstract Of The Disclosure

A remote control holder comprised of a flat generally smooth mounting surface without protrusion or any raised features that interfere with direct attachment of the remote control units for the placement and attachment of a plurality of remote control units using attachment strips or methods. This surface extends into an upswept feature enabling the user to easily control the assembly during use. In addition the upswept portion aids the user in removing or placing the apparatus onto a flat surface such as but not limited to a coffee table.